



CALPEEK

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IS THE THREAT OF TWO STRONG HMO INITIATIVES ON THE FALL BALLOT PUSHING REFORM IN SACTO?

Editor's note: There are two initiatives which will likely qualify for Nov. 5th ballot. Has the qualification drive and publicity surrounding these two measures caused Calif.'s powerful HMO industry to now allow reform legislation in CA's Legislature? Here's our brief update & analysis...

...If you ask either of the groups pushing these two initiative, the answer is an unqualified YES to the question posed in our editor's note. It's almost always the case that public interest groups have to push a few buttons before CA's Legislature moves into action. In this current 1995-96 legislative session, sources say there have been at least 50-60 bills introduced concerning CA's growing managed care health industry - HMOs for short. Of these bills, 5-6 deal specifically with outlawing ***gag rules*** on doctors and other health care professionals, while 4-5 bills deal with ***bonus compensation***. Both subjects are covered in the two initiatives now in the hands of various county registrars...

...What are the odds that some of these bills will win approval? Fair-to-good, according to our sources, because HMO opposition has been dropped. Are these reform bills as strong as the two initiatives? No, but that's to be expected. If some of these HMO reform bills are passed and signed into law, what impact will this have in November? That's the unknown at this point, but you can bet that the umbrella campaign group known as *Taxpayers Against the Government Takeover* will be shouting the line, "There's no need for these initiatives because the legislature has done its job." It will take some good analysis to figure out how far these bills really go in terms of solid reform before we'll know what sort of campaigns to expect...

...As we have noted, there are two campaigns. One

initiative backed by Health Access, Calif. Nurses Alliance-SIEU, AFSCME, CA Fed. of Teachers and CA Congress of Srs. has now formed *Californians United To Stop HMO Abuse*. That's the official campaign committee. There are 3 contacts: Maureen Anderson is the media spokesperson(415)546-6656; Beth Capell is the sr. campaign advisor(916)452-0503; and Amy Pritchard is the political director(310)441-8511. No media/tv consultant yet, but the search is on...

...The other initiative is backed by a group led by the CA Nurses Assn. [contact is Rose Ann DeMoro (415) 864-4141] and the Foundation for Taxpayer & Consumer Rights [contact is Harvey Rosenfield (310)392-0522]. They have not yet formed an umbrella committee for this campaign nor have they hired a media consultant. Stay tuned...

L.A. CO. DA'S RACE: THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Editor's note: The Nov. 5th runoff between incumbent L.A. County DA Gil Garcetti and Dep. DA John Lynch has the potential to be one of the more exciting local campaigns of the fall. Right now it's *the calm before the storm*. Here's our update & analysis...

...It's been just about 7 weeks since the primary and Lynch is running behind schedule in assembling his fall campaign team. Still no lead consultant to handle TV & media, but sources expect an announcement soon. Vandenberg & Associates (Cassandra Vandenberg) has been hired as Lynch's chief fundraising consultant. The campaign hopes to be fully staffed in the next week or so. There's certainly lots of work to do, such as taking stands on key issues. Need to reach the Lynch HQ? ☎(310)328-0376...

...Although sources report that Garcetti wasn't totally thrilled with his primary election effort, his campaign

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team remains the same: Bill Carrick on tv/media; Fairbank Maslin Maullin on polling; and Charlotte Dobbs on fundraising. However, our sources say Garcetti has hired Matt Middlebrook as his new day-to-day mgr. Middlebrook is the Dep. State Director for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, based in So. Calif. He is considered both talented & savvy and obviously has worked closely with Carrick before (Carrick has been DiFi's campaign consultant since 1990). In the primary, Garcetti's son, Eric, handled daily chores. Hiring a strong daily mgr. like Middlebrook will take much of the pressure off Carrick, who has a full plate of political clients for the fall --- and may prevent campaign screw-ups that occurred during the primary. In the Mar. 26th primary, the Garcetti campaign used Dobbs' office as an HQ. For the time being that arrangement will continue. ☎(310)231-1250...

...As for Lynch, he remains a mystery to voters and the L.A. news media. Since the primary, he's done nothing to become better known - in other words, no free news media exposure. A major blunder by Lynch was not jumping all over that report which blasted the L.A. Co. DA's Child Support unit --- calling it among the State's worst in collecting from *deadbeat parents*. It's old news now...

...But with the local and national news media still so preoccupied with the O.J. Simpson murder case, maybe the challenger can continue his stealth tactics a while longer. As we've said before, all this continued coverage of Simpson is very bad news for Garcetti. FYI: CNBC's Rivera Live has an O.J. story on almost every night, with Geraldo reading transcripts from the depositions in the civil trial. Juicy stuff. And the July issue of Playboy will feature an article by Manson Family prosecutor Vince Bugliosi where he reportedly will rip into the L.A.P.D. and the DA's office for blowing the case against Simpson. Not good news for Garcetti...

...P.S. Garcetti has had a face-to-face meeting with the Assn. of Deputy DAs - a group that isn't exactly thrilled with his leadership. No word on whether the association will endorse either candidate -- that will be decided by the membership, who began voting May 1st on whether or not they want to endorse in this upcoming runoff. Results of that vote will be disclosed June 5th. Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: 3 MEASURES STILL ON THE STREET, BUT THEY'LL BE TURNED IN SOON.

Editor's note: CALPEEK sources expect that three(3) more initiatives will be turned in this week. Here's a brief update & analysis of what's going on...

☑ ***Ready for Turn In*** - CALPEEK sources believe that Palm Springs developer Mark Bragg is just about ready to turn in his Gaming initiative (to allow slots at 3 card clubs in Palm Springs). Sources say about 1.1 million names on petitions should be in by either May 13, 14 or 15. The same dates hold true for Competitive Bidding, a constitutional amendment sponsored by *Professional Engineers in CA Govt.* Somewhat up in the air is the 95-5 initiative statute to limit spending on administrative services at K-12 public schools. The sponsors have until June 24th --- meaning they could keep the petitions on the street to insure qualification for June of 1998. Right now it's estimated 95-5 has about 650,000 signatures. To be absolutely sure of qualification for November, 95-5 would need around 50,000 to 70,000 more names...

☑ ***Palm Springs Gaming*** - Bragg has raised about \$1.5 million in his qualification drive to place this constitutional amendment on the Nov. 5th ballot. According to our sources, about half of the money raised has come from Bragg himself. Are the CA Indian tribes, which already operate card casinos, helping Bragg? Some sources say yes, while others say they're just not sure. What is known is that if Bragg qualifies this measure Indian gaming interests will probably jump in to help him --- a big time, too. What's at stake here is \$9 billion (repeat billion) that Calif. residents currently spend in Nevada. If Bragg's measure were to win, you would not only have slot machines in Palm Springs, but also at every Indian casino in the State. Why? Because whatever CA law permits, the Indian tribes can have too. And what would Nevada gaming interests do to combat this initiative? A \$10-15 million campaign would be our guess, based upon what our sources say. We'll keep you posted...

☑ ***Minimum Wage Brouhaha*** - While Congress does its *yes, no and maybe* routine on increasing the Federal minimum wage level from \$4.25 per hour to \$5.15 over a 2 yr. period, the campaign efforts on both sides of this issue here in CA continue to drag along, somewhat hampered by the indecision in DC. But

here's what we do know. The Liveable Wage Coalition (which collected signatures for CA's own minimum wage hike initiative -- up to \$5.75 by 1998) has now established 2 field offices: L.A. ☎(213)380-8830 and S.F. ☎(415)616-5150. Richard Holober is the spokesperson for now and he can be reached at ☎(415)986-3585. The Coalition is now in the process of searching for a TV/media consultant to orchestrate the fall campaign. The two biggest groups of workers in CA who work under minimum wage laws are garment workers (ILGWU) and home health care workers (some represented by the SEIU)...

...The **opposition effort** is not very clear. The S.F.-based PBN Co. issued a news release saying a coalition of restaurants, hotels and retailers are exploring a campaign against the CA initiative, which is a slam dunk to make the fall ballot. But there's been nothing more since this mid-April announcement. Again, we'll keep you updated. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: AN UPDATE ON NEW LAW BY WEST HOLLYWOOD BANNING CHEAP HANDGUNS.

Editor's note: The city of West Hollywood's law banning the sale of *Saturday Night Special* handguns was finally implemented on Apr. 24 when the city council approved a preliminary list of banned weapons. Here's our update on where the law stands...

...The council actually adopted an ordinance banning the sale of Saturday Night Special handguns way back in January, but the law itself couldn't go into effect until the council drew up a list of specifically banned handguns. Now that's been done and there are some 40 firearms on the list. What's next???

...The Nat'l Rifle Assn. (NRA) and the CA Rifle & Pistol Assn. filed suit against West Hollywood back in February (after the city's 1st reading of the new law), but don't look for courtroom action anytime soon. The NRA and CRPA have modified their legal actions and continue to make amendments as the city adjusts its own law. As explained to CALPEEK, the city's list of banned guns is only a preliminary list. And there's a process by which gun makers can appeal inclusion on the city's list. Once that's done, then the lawsuit can go forward...

...Gun lobby sources describe West Hollywood's list of

the *Top 40 SNS Handguns* as a very symbolic list of handguns and they feel that the city's description of these guns being unsafe won't hold up. "If you believe that the lawyers representing these firms would permit their clients to produce unsafe guns, guess again," one gun lobby source told CALPEEK...

...When CALPEEK asked Handgun Control, Inc. if there were other cities preparing similar bans, we couldn't get a firm answer. While other cities have requested info about West Hollywood's law, it appears these other cities are taking a *wait-and-see* approach. If West Hollywood's law withstands legal challenge, then these other cities might go forward, but not until then. Stay tuned...

CCRI's CONNERLY TO ADDRESS L.A. LINCOLN CLUB.

Sacto businessman and UC Regent Ward Connerly, who chairs the CA Civil Rights Initiative, will address members of the downtown L.A. Lincoln Club, 12 noon, May 21, Hotel InterContinental. For info & RSVPs, ☎Sheila McNichols at (818)249-4205...

S.F. SUPES RACES: 6 SEATS UP FOR GRABS IN FALL.

Editor's note: There are six(6) seats on the S.F. Board of Supes that are up in November. Here's our first update on this battle...

...*Termed out* are Supes. Angela Alioto, Tom Hsieh and Willie Kennedy. In addition, seats now occupied by Barbara Kaufman, Sue Bierman and newly appointed Sup. Michael Yaki are all up Nov. 5th. These last three incumbents will seek reelection...

...S.F. Mayor Willie Brown still has to name a replacement for new Assemblywoman Carole Migden and there's talk that Kennedy may resign her seat to take a job at City Hall. If that happens (and sources think this scenario is likely), then Mayor Willie will have two(2) supervisorial appointments instead of one. There are all sorts of scenarios as to whom Brown might pick, but guessing is useless because Mayor Willie is playing his cards close to his vest --- which is smart. Mayor Willie will have yet a 3rd appointment in December - after Sup. Kevin Shelley is elected to John Burton's 12th AD post on Nov. 5th. Bottomline: by January of 1997, the Bd. of Supes could have as many as 6 new members, if you include Yaki as being fairly new (and he wins a full term on his own, which insiders think is likely)...

...Back to the fall election. The talk around City Hall is that both Sue Bierman and Barbara Kaufman will go all out to win the most votes. The candidate getting the most votes Nov. 5th becomes President of the 11-member Bd. of Supes...

...In addition to those incumbents seeking reelection, names of other potential candidates which have surfaced include: Carolene Marks, wife of State Sen. Milton Marks; S.F. School Bd. member Leland Yee; businessman/attorney Bruce Quan; Latino activist Victor Marquez; businessman Mark Leno; Latino activist Jose Medina; and community college trustee Leslie Katz. It's still very early and this is only a preliminary list. Stay tuned...

L.A. CO. SUP. YAROSLAVSKY TO DISCUSS BUDGET.

L.A. County is facing another budget crisis (a total meltdown). So the timing is perfect for Co. Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky to address the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, May 23rd at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown L.A. For info & RSVPs, ☎ Emma Schafer at (310)445-8862...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Orange Co. News War*** - The Orange Co. Weekly, sister publication of the L.A. Weekly, has gone to war with the Orange Co. Register, accusing the Register of slating their coverage of the ongoing DA's probe into GOP dirty tricks in 67th AD recall of Doris Allen and the subsequent election of Assemblyman Scott Baugh (R-Huntington Beach). And lots of criticism is aimed at the way the Register has treated U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach) --- accusing the paper of going *soft* on the former Register editorial writer. The April 26th article by R. Scott Moxley makes interesting reading...

■ ***Italian American Voters in '96*** - Who will Italian Americans vote for in 1996 --- Clinton or Dole? That's one of questions to be discussed at a conference titled: *Italian Americans: A Political Force for the 21st Century*. 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., May 16 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington DC. Conference is sponsored by the Nat'l Italian American Foundation and the conference chair is L.A. consultant Joe Cerrell.

Clinton/Gore '96 Dep. Cmp. Mgr. Ann Lewis and Dole pollster Anthony Fabrizio are among the conference speakers. For info ☎ Elizabeth O'Connell at NIAF (202)387-0600...

■ ***Good One-Liners*** - Some of the better political one-liners to come out of the White House Correspondent's Dinner (5/4) were from President Bill Clinton and from comedian Al Franken. From President Clinton: *whom do you trust to pick your pizza toppings?* And from Franken about Calif.'s U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan (R-Orange Co.): *He's a crazy homophobe, but he can take a joke...*

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: 50-year-old Barbara Caplan, C-O-S to the L.A. Assemblyman Wally Knox, died May 4 after a battle with cancer. R.I.P...

● Peter S. Knight has been named Clinton/Gore '96 campaign manager. Knight is a former top aide to Gore and was his AA in the U.S. Senate and led his campaign in 1992...

● Calif. Demo delegates to the Aug. 26-29 DNC Presidential convention in Chicago have selected U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer & Dianne Feinstein and Lt. Gov. Gray Davis as the co-chairs of the 424-member CA delegation...

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